



STATE OF DELAWARE
Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission

FINAL MINUTES

Meeting Date and Time: September 16, 2011, 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Appoquinimink State Service Center

In Attendance:

Commissioners:

Ms. Patricia Ciranni
Dr. Garrett H. C. Colmorgen, Chair
Ms. Tania M. Culley
Ms. Marjorie Hershberger
Dr. Kathy A. Janvier
Dr. Amanda Kay
Ms. Leslie Newman
Dr. David Paul
Dr. Kevin Sheahan
Dr. Philip Shlossman
Ms. Patricia Dailey Lewis
Ms. Mary Kate McLaughlin
Ms. Alisa Olshefsky
Cpl. Adrienne Owens (proxy for Col. Coupe)

Other:

Ms. Denese Welch (DPH: Health Statistics Center)
Ms. Jean Hreczan (DPH: Health Statistics Center)

Staff:

Anne Pedrick, Executive Director
Ashlee Starratt
Angela Birney
Elaine O'Neill

Call to Order:

Dr. Colmorgen called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

OLDBUSINESS

Minutes: The minutes from June 3, 2011 were accepted without change.

Vital Statistics Presentation: Denese Welch from Vital Statistics (VS) presented on some issues the Commission had concerning birth and death certificates as was discussed at the June Commission meeting.

- Are the items collected federally mandated or regulated at state discretion? *Delaware follows US standards for collecting information on the birth and death certificates, the only difference is that Delaware also collects the “predominant race” for the child.*
- Who completes the certificates? *The hospital staff, midwife or the state (if birth occurred at home) completes the certificates.*
- Who trains these personnel? *The vendor (software) and state personnel train the birth providers; training is ongoing; training can be requested as needed; training tools and informational binder given to facilities. Electronic version of the program has field tips to better explain what each field is requesting.*
- Does Quality Assurance (QA) take place? *Yes*
- How often? *QA is ongoing. Reports are submitted to National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) every two weeks; the reports are evaluated and returned if additional information is needed or if information is questionable. Department of Health Statistics Center (DHSC) runs edits daily, weekly and monthly.*
- Scenario questioned: Baby is born alive but is issued a fetal certificate – could be due to human error. *CDNDSC should contact VS to investigate and make necessary corrections; situation could also possibly correct itself during any of the edit runs.*
- Are there extra fields for additional variables to be collected? *No. There is a possibility that if a just reason has been identified, changes can be made; however, these are costly as the software will need to be modified.*
- Can the cause of death be changed after additional findings are determined through the medical record reviews? *Yes; if a discrepancy is noted during the medical record review, contact VS and they will investigate the cause of death and make necessary changes.*
- Can training be conducted with birthing facilities if a particular area needs more attention? *Yes; a statewide education campaign can be conducted to stress a particular issue.*
- Will the form be changed due to the civil union bill? *No; only minor changes will be made to the wording of the document, so there will be no costs incurred, therefore, the form itself will not change. (Mother will be listed as the “birth” mother; the father section will be changed to “partner.”)*
- What additional information is on the long-form birth certificate as opposed to the short-form certificate? *The long-form certificate only includes some*

additional personal statistical information (presenters did not specify exactly what information).

NEW BUSINESS

New Commissioner: Marie Renzi and Lani Nelson-Zlupko have resigned to pursue other endeavors. Two resumes were handed out as potential replacements for Marie Renzi's position – Mary Ann Crossley and Sean Elwell, both were exceptional candidates. The Commission agreed that both resumes should be sent to the Governor for his final decision. If anyone has suggestions for a replacement for Lani Nelson-Zlupko's position, please provide resumes to the Commission at the next meeting. The candidate must be a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

Executive Director Report:

Staff:

Approval granted to fill the position of Administrative Specialist I. Six interviews were conducted on August 9th & 10th. Elaine O'Neill was hired to fill that position. Angela Birney was promoted to Office Manager. Internal policy and procedures are being reviewed and updated during this transition process.

Conference: The Protecting Delaware's Children Conference is set for October 19th & 20th at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino. Online registration has begun; over 300 registered thus far capacity is at 500.

Bike Safety Pilot Program: Lizzie Birney (daughter of CDNDSC Office Manager, Angela Birney) completed a bike helmet safety campaign as her Girl Scout Silver Award. Lizzie worked with Anne Pedrick, Smyrna Police Chief Wilbert Bordley and Rita's Water Ice manager, Cindy Jung, to create a coupon for a free water ice and reward kids that were wearing their bicycle helmets. An article entitled "Safety is Sweet" ran in the News Journal on September 5th. To date, approximately 25 coupons have been turned in.

Infant Safe Sleep Media Campaign:

Over the summer, Dr. Colmorgen, Dr. Paul, Anne Pedrick and Marj Hershberger met with Susan Noyes to discuss a media campaign for the state regarding Infant Safe Sleep. In July, Marj presented to the Delaware Perinatal Collaborative. Bridget Buckaloo was hired as a Nurse Health Educator with the March of Dimes. Marj and Bridget are working on a baseline survey for all area hospitals to see where they stand on the issue of infant safe sleeping (Do they have a policy in place? Is training offered to the staff?). The Delaware Healthy Mother Infant Consortium and its subcommittees are focusing on the infant safe sleep issue this year.

National Child Death Review: In August, Ashlee Starratt received training and attended the national meeting of the National SUID Case Registry in Atlanta, GA sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Currently, six states have been selected to pilot the program; however, Delaware has become a non-funded state to participate. A grant announcement should come out in January 2012, to which CDNDSC will apply; the grant comes with approximately \$60,000 for data collection.

Maternal Mortality Review (MMR): The first MMR will be held on November 16th at 5:30 at the Medical Society of Delaware. Masters of Public Health, Sandra Schwarz, of New Jersey will present on the maternal review process. She is also the Chair of the New Jersey Maternal Mortality Review.

FIMR: A survey was distributed to all FIMR Case Review Team (CRT) members to evaluate the likes and dislikes of the process and to gain suggestions on how to improve the process. As a result of these surveys, the New Castle County and Wilmington CRTs have merged (only four members were attending the Wilmington CRTs prior to this merger, not providing an adequate review). The CRTs have been moved to the Medical Society of Delaware. CMEs were granted through the Medical Society of Delaware for those medical professionals in attendance. There were 22 doctors and nurses present at this newly merged CRT. Members were briefed on the last annual report to highlight that their work is making a difference.

Maternal Interviews: CDNDSC would like to conduct maternal interviews with mothers that have lost a child to a safe sleep related death. The interview would pattern the FIMR maternal interview process. Referral resources would also be given to the mother for services such as bereavement. Several countries around the world have seen marked success with the interview process; while in this country, Washington is the only state to have piloted the interview. The Office of the Attorney General had a concern that the parent will not be given their Miranda rights. Anne explained that in the FIMR process, the parent signs a letter and Kristin Joyce (Senior Medical Social Worker) ensures the parent(s) understands that any disclosure of child abuse or neglect or reportable incident for the Division of Professional Regulation will be reported. It is suggested that the CDNDSC staff develop a policy and form letter that the Commission can review and approve at a future meeting.

We would hope to utilize some of the interviewees in a video to be incorporated with the media campaign. Baltimore has published such a video and seen a successful decrease in their sleep-related deaths (the video was shown to the Commission).

Other Business:

The March of Dimes Summit on Safe Sleep with Dr. Rachel Moon and Marj Hershberger will be on November 15th at Christiana Care Hospital.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to enter Executive Session.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Commission returned. There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to adjourn.